Watergate: Peter Dale Scott and Franz Schurmann (1973)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro)

Uploaded by Our Hidden History (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfzszfxZr4qmeZjZ_3R_Pw) on Sat Dec 14 2019.

Watergate : more than the spaghetti net / moderated by Fran Watkins.
PRA Archive #: BC1362 https://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/recording/bc1362

Marty Gellen, Franz Schurmann and Peter Dale Scott discuss the Watergate affair, and the crisis it created in American government.
Date Broadcast on: KPFA, 30 May 1973.
Item duration: 1 reel (49 min.) : 7 1/2 ips, mono.

For more related content, please visit:
http://ourhiddenhistory.org/
https://archive.org/details/@altviewstv-fanclub

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro)

this is a special report on Watergate from the bay area Institute my name is Marty Galan I haven't here with me in the studio Peter Scott who's author of a book called war conspiracy has done an extensive research into intelligence operations of the US government France Sherman who's from the Bay Area Institute and who he's just completed a book on American foreign policy and Fran Watkins who is from KPFA and who is going to moderate the rest of this program we're going to talk about Watergate and try not so much to get into this whole spaghetti netting of connections and people who know people and people who have been connected to other people in the Justice Department and the Treasury and the committee to re-elect the president but try to deal overall with the kind of crisis that has emerged within the United States government due to this whole Watergate scandal I think that's a good introduction Marty because it seems to me that there's sort of two kinds of analysis going on about the Watergate thing one form of analysis is who did it who are these people and who do they know as you mentioned and I think the more neglected and probably the more important aspect of this is who is in power in Washington and what significant power ships have we seen as a result of Watergate possibly that led up to Watergate or that may relate to Watergate in some kind of way I'd love to begin by picking up on the question whether the Watergate is creating a crisis or is in response to a crisis and I think that one way of establishing perspective on what's happening and who are the power groups is to put I'd like to put these put forward the hypothesis that Watergate is more in response to a deeper crisis than itself the single

00:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=121s)

deeper crisis than itself the single cause that has created all these the commotion in the papers these days and I think that a very real crisis has been created for the US dollar and for the US economy by the kind of turnaround that symbolized by the escalation in indochina although it's by no means complete that de-escalation because for four decades really since world war two America is being posited on the idea of an expanding economy and bigger and bigger share of that was the government pie and there's always enough pie for everybody when Nixon came into power he came into the power into power supported by and with his Cod recruited from people who are not really the establishment of this country but were marginal to the

establishment and in some cases I would call them marginal people and as long as we had this expanding economy it was in the interests of those really in power in this country to to work with these people the marginal people recruited for a bigger defense budget they recruited for they campaigned for more aggressive camp US involvement overseas and so on they had a very direct stake in this because with in in expanding the economy they were carving a little share for themselves but they were also supporting the sort of defense economy climate which probably profited the people at the center even more than these marginal people let me interrupt you for just a minute and see if we can nail down who some of these marginal people are I assume that you're referring to people like Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman who had not been directly involved in politics before they came into power via the minister yes exactly they're doubly marginal because they're not really at the center of the u.s. political system as it's normally envisioned and one of the big complaints is coming from Congress and the question you hear it in the questions of the Select Committee is who in the committee to reelect the president really knew

00:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=240s)

to reelect the president really knew anything about electoral politics at best they were media people they were not people who had ever represented and who were you know at the at the heart of the political process in that sense and then they were also marginal in sense of the kind of areas they came from the kind of people they represented and the committee to re-elect the president I think frightened a lot of the people at the center because here was a committee with an enormous budget nobody knows how a big estimated me maybe forty or fifty million dollars with maybe ten or twenty million dollars left over after the election and these people who in many ways had didn't represent anybody hoped to be able to perpetuate themselves because of their control over this enormous just fantastic electoral Kitty now we've defined the marginal people could we talk a little bit about who you would define as the principal people as opposed to the marginal people well I think that I think the probably general agreement you know that certainly people like Haldeman and Ehrlichman perhaps not Mitchell are our marginal a sense that as Peter said we're not in the center of the American political system as is normally understood now that the in a way the question you're asking Fran is one that should be asked after a long searching consideration because it's sort of tries to answer the final question of who does wield a power and and who has the power wealth and prestige that counts you know in this in this in this country and perhaps it might be better if we start off with perhaps in a somewhat more factoring the empirical basis and review some of the known but not very prominent facts and one that I'd like to just call listeners attention to is what happened immediately after the election last year

00:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=360s)

immediately after the election last year and that is how everyone's surprised Nixon called for the resignation of all top officials in the administration and something like 2000 resignations were requested this was considered the most extraordinary thing it is normal that ambassadors routinely resigned and that cabinet officials routinely resign and so on but it's not normal that's such a precipitate action be taken which as most people in Washington observed at the time was seem to be almost han't amount to a purge or had the threat of a purge in it now this gets me to the point that Peter made and in response to your first question that is Watergate the cry that produced all these things or was a response to a crisis I certainly agree with him it was response to a crisis and I think the action that Nixon took last last December last November other and just after the election in calling for these resignations suddenly seemed to open up all sorts of power positions the command posts to power or at least in theory going to be vacant now you don't do that normally I mean normal politics are that you replace people one by one you accommodate to the interest you argue it out appointing someone is not just there giving someone a salary or even a certain amount of power I mean it brings one interest group comes in another interest group comes out so clearly it was something extraordinary about that action and what happened as a result of that action is very complicated need more extraordinary now the crisis I think is there I think and everyone knows it and everyone has sensed it I mean it has been Vietnam it has been the monetary situation it has been the thing the energy crisis and the jugular vein in the Middle East and all sorts of other things I mean that crisis is sensed by virtually everyone in this country so it it's I think at this point one can say that clearly what the that call that remarkable call for 2000

00:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=481s)

call that remarkable call for 2000 resignations or so right after the election was indicative the fact that this new administration having just won one of the biggest landslide victories in the history the United States in which one normally would think that it could confidently proceed to wisely or not so wisely but at least in confidence guide the destiny of the United States that it was in a state of panic having secured enormous victories in the state of panic and begins starts the beginnings of a purge can I just add to that I think and another comparable of element was the posture that Nixon adopted towards Congress and the virtual sort of declaration of war on Congress which became partly worse because of Watergate but but was aggravated by other factors as well so I if I were answering your question I would break it down into three parts and say that people establishment people felt threatened first of all in Congress and that that which you might call the sort of the bipartisan back particularly of the Senate has now become very jealous of Senate's privileges and is responding obviously to to Nixon there were established institutional people within the bureaucracy perhaps most visibly in both the FBI and the CIA where we know that many of the people in the FBI objected to the putting in of L Patrick gray by Nixon and I think quite obviously contributed to the leaks of information which led to Gray's downfall similar thing in the CIA we're putting in Schlessinger from the outside was a new thing for the agency they no one knows all the facts but it seems like Helms didn't want to leave they posted at the head of the CIA he was moved out and a Nixon man was put in and I suspect that people in the agency are now anti-nixon for that reason and finally perhaps the biggest question and I don't presume to answer it properly here but the the kind of economic interests who think 20 years

00:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=600s)

of economic interests who think 20 years ahead and are really interested in that sort of the a planned orderly development of the US economy versus all these quick buck operators who get a some kind of fantastic contract in Vietnam this year even if it's going to ruin the US economy in the process that's what I'd call the marginal economic interests who are looting the public treasury and a lot of what's happened in Vietnam is is almost a kind of looting I think as opposed to the people who are also used to enriching themselves at the expense of the taxpayer through through government but do it in turn in a long-term they're they're really interested in seeing the country stable and people reasonably happy and so on and people call that Wall Street if you want a word but I don't think that's very helpful do you think that the current the current crisis ended with the dollar and the current sort of contraction of American economic power abroad has sort of intensified the differences between these two sorts of groups the center group and and the more kind of marginal people not just in within the government but in terms of you know the business connections how did you spoke up very definitely and I think this goes back we did 68 we have to remember a very analogous crisis when Johnson and the military wanted to put two hundred and six thousand more men into Vietnam and this was leaked to the New York Times and all in the context of a radical weakening of the US dollar and new figures about balance-of-payments crisis and so on and we saw and agon papers make this quite clear that in early 1968 a delegation of bankers came down from Wall Street and in effect told Johnson you can't send two hundred thousand men to to Vietnam because the country can't afford it and the response of Johnson to that it was painful for him and he was slow to do it but in the end of March he announced that he would not run for re-election and he would not send the 200,000 men and meanwhile he recalled

00:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=720s)

200,000 men and meanwhile he recalled Westmoreland and so on this was clearly I think a crisis between the bankers at the center who had to worry about the economy as a whole and these marginal people who for various reasons bureaucratic military economic whatever wanted desperately to hang on in Vietnam let's go back to the story I'm hooked in the first chapter now where the president gets a large majority in the election and fires everybody and we're in a state of panic let's go back to that now what's the next chapter well perhaps one can begin the eye I would submit the many chapters a big book but this section of the book begins with Nixon's electoral victory this particular chapter I mean their earlier chapters if one looks at the shifts that occurred in December and I think would probably go to far afield - to deal with him there's some

remark of personnel shifts and seemed to be evidence of struggles I'll just mention one and that was a position of Kleindienst that the talk as reflected in the newspapers at the time was a client needs would not be confirmed as Attorney General and that mix would nominate someone else and Klein Dean's himself is very unsure I thought he would be nominated but then Barry Goldwater paid a visit to Nixon and pleaded for his fellow Arizonian and then sometime during the midst of this very intensive bombing I believe it was early in January that Nixon finally announced that Kleindienst would be would be nominated as Attorney General at that time also number surprising moves occurred Secretary of Commerce Peter Peterson would negotiate all the big trade deals with the Russians unexpectedly was ousted and the business pages were full of this Arminius news 90 seem to be from their point of view a very good and Secretary of Commerce and of course the most startling thing of all the the ouster of Helms as director

00:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=842s)

all the the ouster of Helms as director the CIA who was widely praised as a true professional and and man you know with no political unlike I suppose Allen Dulles or John McCone of ITT fame now so there were a lot of lesser changes to that occurred the appointment of William Clements as deputy secretary of defense and arguments about that now there's one thing that occurred around the Clements thing which I'd like to ask Peter about because so we have been discussing some similar things when the the the talk in December exactly at this time with some enormous amount of bombing going on was was going when there was talk about who should be Deputy Secretary of Defense I stay the same position that David Packard had held during the first Nixon apart during a part of the first Nixon administration it was reported that Richardson favored a man named more leave name was Jonathan Moore who was reputed to be a dove in Vietnam and rather liberal and somewhat like Richardson and his viewers and the Richardson very much wanted to to have him as deputy secretary defense and and the Washington Post item reported rather curious that some of the sort of more conservative appearing people like Charles Colson was already out at that time practicing law and wash and some others were lining up with the Liberals in support of more sort of the old right and the old left or the old liberals getting together to support a dove candidate and the man who was finally nominated was the representative of major oil interests in Texas and exceedingly hard a hawkish Thai person from one can tell I was going to ask Peter here that the phenomenon that appeared at that time that seems to be reappearing again in the present Watergate hearings of old conservatives are old reactionaries you know what's a sort of FBI oriented people or or look I McCourt is I was described by a

00:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=960s)

McCourt is I was described by a right-wing person to me when we happen to know as a fine operative but people like that zeroing in on Nixon along with the old liberals who also know I I wondered whether you'd kind of well I think this is the end product of the whole Nixon strategy of being you know keeping the power very tightly to himself in recruiting instead you know what I think a traditional presidential strategy is to surround himself by representative people you know perhaps overly representative you got to get somebody from the center Midwest and the northeastern well you know all that sort of thing but Nixon recruited particularly in his White House staff but but generally he recruited also particularly and in the Justice Department from about three areas one of them was the the leftovers of the old what used to be called the Arizona mafia from the Goldwater campaign Klein gangs rain twist yes well it's a kindest would be the biggest example now and then secondly the his law firm in New York Mitchell and the people that Mitchell recruited and finally and perhaps most prominent now were the the Haldeman people from Jay Walter Thompson that was Chapin and the people that you know most of the people that they were in the White House were recruited by Haldeman these people were so close and so tight that the result was it wasn't that it's so much split the Republican Party but it it's separated Nixon and his little gang from the Republican Party and also obviously from the Democrats so that in that we can see the phenomenon most clearly inside Congress where the the right and the left helped to stop the gray nomination perhaps the chief role being played by senator Byrd who's a right wing Democrat and hoping in so doing to strengthen his forces and the Strauss forces inside the Democratic Party but what's interesting is we see

00:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1080s)

Party but what's interesting is we see the same thing outside of you know you might expect it in Congress because there it's a fight between Congress and the presidency but we find the same thing really happening outside I think as well that the the Republican National Committee for example is obviously very unhappy about the role that is being taken in recent in this last campaign by the committee to re-elect the president and has a direct stake it's a complicated role they have to play but they have a very Dec direct stake in trying to recapture primacy in the Republican Party for the Republican National Committee and that's something again which unites the right-wingers and the left wingers in the party then finally you see trying to just to look at a bit into the future what what I wonder is what will happen if say the price of gold goes up to a hundred and fifty dollars an ounce or something like that because at a moment like that it seems to me quite possible the moment like that I'm sure that the the bankers and the santur will come back to Nixon with an ultimatum and I think Nixon has felt enough of that kind of pressure already to explain his statement on Tuesday of this week which was essentially an attempt to try and reassure people backing the dollar and to describe discouraged speculators by saying clearly I will not resign I think that was done directly with an eye to what's happening to gold in the international markets I think we may move towards a crisis in this country where the bankers come to Nixon and say we can't afford the nation cannot afford to have you in in office anymore now in the case of Johnson in 1968 there was only six months to run in his candidacy the case of Nixon who I don't think will give up easily but also I think is is is really visibly lacking in support it's like that scene in seven days in May where they see a general rowing a boat and they realize that the conspirators have not got very

00:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1200s)

that the conspirators have not got very many personnel between them when the general has to roll a boat well I think we see the same thing in Washington and Nixon has to move his clean men like Schlessinger and Richardson around from post to post supposed it becomes rather comic but it's a very clear indication when he when he fails to recruit packard or any serious established personality for the secretary to be Secretary of Defense the very clear sign that he is without allies at this point and yet at the same time he is that they he is the chief of state it's a very very paradoxical I know I think dangerous situation I think it is I mean obviously is dangerous I mean with an item that Marty pointed out to me in the Wall Street Journal the other day in the first hints of a possible recession I mean we've had inflation for a long time and unemployment is going down somewhat but still not satisfactory but there's been this boom woman and bond in Cambodia will not let solve any economic now but one difference it seems to me Peter between 68 and now is that in 68 March 1968 but the issue was to have Johnston do nothing and therefore he has committed political suicide a good point yes where's now the issue is had the president do something we need it strong we need a strong president because doing nothing now means the whole thing just goes over the side and flows into the abyss wonder if I could make an analogy when it says I interests me more and more in the last year between the way in which Indochina corrupted the politics of the fourth republic in France in the 1950s and became sort of the one stable thing in the fourth Republic was the Indochina war just went on and on and on and couldn't be stopped and there was so much corruption around it that it succeeded in corrupting not only officials and into China but officials in Paris and ultimately they the assembly itself and that same corruption surviving almost without break into the late 50s and 60s and now corrupting

00:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1320s)

late 50s and 60s and now corrupting America America as well in American politics so that although we go from Democrats to Republicans the ones sort of stable thing in American politics has been some kind of US presence in Indochina which is clearly unpopular which is now even unpopular with Congress as well as with the people and yet is something that the Nixon administration seems to be indelibly committed to in particular these marginal people that he has brought around him they they don't like to be ideologically prominent you know it's not easy to pin a label on people like Haldeman and Ehrlichman but clearly it's people like them over being at they it is being their power certainly not Congress's power which has been responsible for these sudden escalations like the one you talked about last December and the reason that that analogy

concerns me so much is that really the only way out for France from the the mess of first Indochina and ultimately Algeria was a kind of conspiracy of the center which dump which dumped both they corrupted politicians of the Fourth Republic or the worst of them and also some of the ultras who were trying to push always for more and more commitments to to Algeria so that everyone felt that the goal had betrayed them in that but in a sense it was a conspiracy to restore him try to assassinate him six times yes yes yes it was not an easy thing at all well I just wonder if what we aren't moving into a kind of comparable period a kind of degradation of leadership as we saw in France so that somebody like PA and France is comparable to something like Agnew in power today is a vice president he's not really a representative man I think certainly not representative the powers in this country I'm just very concerned that so far there has been no talk of violence of any kind or force in response to this

00:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1440s)

of any kind or force in response to this situation and as long as it as long as the country remains more or less on on balance there is no real sudden threat to the to the economy or to the the dollar minor monetary or economic then I think we can solve this problem but but we know that there are all kinds of dangerous signals on both levels both the actual fate of the dollar and also the fate of the economy the threat of recession is some people have compared 1973 to 1929 you know more and more corporate profits but less and less faith in in the economic future for this country increasing scandal as well no [Music] we've talked about the need now as far as the economy is concerned and institutional investors and big business for a strong president to do something now how in the world can we come from the state that we're in now with the president who's powerless and totally paralyzed and with the staff that's absolutely not functioning the government is not going on as usual in Washington now we're at this point of crisis as far as the economy and the our whole position with the rest of the world is concerned so how do you get out of it I don't think there's any hope with President Nixon because we have seen I think it's it's just clear that when Nixon does something in the economic area he does the wrong thing I'm in Phase two which looked like controls was control of labor control of wages some kind of control of prices the interest of maximizing profits but we have this colossal balance-of-payments problem right now and what moves most easily out of the country what encourages the fight of capital out of this country is to maximize profits is precisely profits that are mobile and as profits which have been flying out of this country and that's an aspect of the whole economic crisis which no one seems

00:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1561s)

whole economic crisis which no one seems to talk about although I hear all kinds of people who who are engaged in this kind of withdrawal of the food dollars from this country say of course controls will have to come it can't go on like this that's why I talk about a kind of looting of this country which is very analogous to France in the 50s it's you could even I mean this is Pat's exaggerating but it's not totally and comparable to say China in the 1930s it's kind of systemic degradation of part at the center which is allowed for such powerful private enrichment that it reinforces the power at the center even though the society as a whole is is steering into worse more stronger that there's an enormous flight of capital out of this country it's clear I mean people are talking about a hundred billion dollars in liquidity which 93% is owned by American multinational corporations and the other 7% supposedly by Arabs whatever oil interests they seem to be the bad boys in this whole in this whole situation but obviously the the that's it's much more profitable and lucrative and to transform dollars and to turn dollars into into mark and yen I whatever happens I mean it may be Nixon will be a Hoover or a second term Eisenhower and and and in the face of all these challenges not be able to do very much but I don't think that this country has faced a general crisis such as it began to face in 1929 I mean who knows what's gonna happen but general cries a lot of problems all come together you know and major problems affecting the country as a whole that that that this has not happened since 1929 but at the same time leaving aside Watergate leaving aside Nixon and looking simply at the kind of institutional changes that occurred at the top level of government they have been moves toward a presidential dictatorship that the power of the presidency has been systematically built up to with unbelievable proportions we

00:28:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1682s)

up to with unbelievable proportions we must be fair and say this has been a cumulative process since 90s one thing that seems to characterize this crisis though is that Nixon himself seems to lack the ability to smoothly and harmoniously represent the interests of the American ruling class as a whole represent their general interests he always seems to be in a quandary to the extent that that tea is bending over backwards to help some of these these marginal kinds of businesses and interests which you mentioned Peter or in some cases you know specific corporations it's the ITT affair revealed and to do it in such a way that that damages his ability to represent the kind of general interests of the American business oligarchy and one thing I was wondering maybe we could just deal a bit with some of these kind of marginal or specific interests that that Nixon bends over backwards to help it and in particular those who that which seem to have been somewhat implicated in the whole Watergate affair and which I guess is really mainly Nixon's dealings with people various people in Florida who have been associated with the Mafia you know something about this people do you not let me go back and see if we began this whole discussion with the idea of the Watergate scandal being a response to a crisis so as we talked about this let's see if we can go back to the original question and say specifically how Watergate has been a response to this crisis which is certainly worsened as a result of Watergate well what I've been trying to suggest is that there are people in Congress in the bureaucracy and in shall we say Wall Street in the sort of economic establishment who are very interested in weakening the power of the president this time and

00:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1800s)

of the president this time and particularly in separating the president from certain kinds of people and ironically these I think these have proven now to be the people that are hardest to separate the president from the bebe rebozo is an example obviously I mean a lot of editorials that have from particularly East Coast papers that have establishment papers have suggested that it's not appropriate for the president to spend nearly all of his free time with a man who was accused of making a fortune out of back marketing in World War two is visibly being involved in business deals with convicted with criminals including one man who in 1964 was called one of the top syndicate figures in the United States whose bebe rebozo repeatedly does direct business dealings with there is there's a dark side to Richard Nixon and saying it's the only side to him but the Nixons own personal investments of being in miami real estate and have been involved robo so has usually been a principal in this and i think it's no accident at all that this little real-estate company called emeritus which was suspected at the beginning as being a front for the watergate operation it was operated by Eugenio Martinez who was one of the people actually arrested inside the Watergate and across Nixon's connections with the Cuban exiles as a whole second story but I'm just talking about his personal business deals Eugenio Martinez is supposed to formerly being a vice president of Keyes Realty which is among other things the firm which handled a succession of very shady business operations in land deals some of which are now owned some of that land now owned by rebozo and Nixon and Nixon seems to have delayed registration of his Lots precisely because he knew of the sort of shady background of this and no one couldn't go on for four hours about Keyes Realty but say only that didn't the Kefauver hearings back in

00:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=1920s)

didn't the Kefauver hearings back in nineteen fifty this company was named along with its lawyers as being principals and providing the payoffs to the corrupt Sharia sheriff of Dade County might that's to say Miami Florida which explained why Miami was such a center for gambling and other criminal activities in that time I think we have to go back though and establish specific incidents if we can now why was the President or the committee to re-elect the president certainly we know involved in all this business of political espionage and spying on Democrats and building up a system of the listen power let's take the ITN T example it was one of the things that turned out well I'm sorry to get back into the name spaghetti but it really is incredible isn't it that Dean had EE Howard hunt go out and speak to DITA beard at a time when there was all a controversy about the DJ beard memorandum in the I T and T case and apparently they did this because of the fact that a that the d de beard memorandum being given to the FBI on the explicit instructions that was not to go any

further in that that L Patrick gray had a hand it was the man who had received the memorandum and and it said yes it won't go any further and the next thing we know he Howard hunt is going out to to speak to D de beard about it before it was was common knowledge all those deals we can't obviously don't have time to list the diesels but in sort of these trade offs where the government eases through something for any kind of private interest the response of which is a private payment to private funds to reelect the president you have a kind of self a self maintaining power system there which is independent from and alien to the whole sort of anticipated congressional bureaucratic relationships

00:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2041s)

congressional bureaucratic relationships I think the campaign chest and the campaign donations is a much more obvious thing and easier to understand let's go back to the Watergate incident itself do we have any basis here for answering the question of why was the Democratic National Committee headquarters broken into in the first place I think and why was it so badly bungled and then can we go from there well I'll it's only else answer depending I just want to make a clarification when I say we have a Watergate crisis in response to an other crisis I don't regard the breaking into the water great as the thing that caused the Watergate crisis I think if we had a different economic and political situation in the first part of this year you would never again have heard about the Watergate break-in we have to distinguish between the break-in which is not unprecedented in this country from the way in which the nation has responded to that break-in which is I think I'm pleased well I think we have to go back and say that if McCord had never written his letter to judge Sarika that we never would have heard any more about the Watergate thing but I think we're done at Rick gray nomination and gone through Congress yes yes that's true I'm perfectly prepared to accept that part of the thesis the the place I think where it gets muddy is why did McCord write as low - judge Sarika how did it happen that these people were caught and because after all the thing was very badly bungled with the tape on the doors if these people are actually very fine operatives as you quoted earlier front how did this kind of thing happen mr. Lewis Savage said if he was going to send a wire man in there he wouldn't send him in with an army I think that's very true then it's either the Republicans have said from the very beginning that there must have been a double agent in that team and I find it very hard not to agree with that well then how does that fit into what we've talked about well maybe the answer to to this question lies with that agency of

00:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2161s)

this question lies with that agency of government which apparently can be secret no matter what it does the CIA because that has been and insert to some extent the the kind of dark character in this whole operation because all these people hunt Liddy McCord Barker even though they work years for the CIA claim the CIA has it has had nothing to do with this directly I mean they have repudiated any any link between the creep Nixon's campaign organization and Nixon's activities and the CIA even when they supposedly brought up this whole issue of the intervention - to try to blame the whole caper on the CIA maybe that's where the the factor of the double agent lies well I think it's a bit early to speculate but but some of the symptoms about the break-in is take one for example if if an ordinary police car had come to respond to that break-in they they wouldn't have been caught because they were watching for the police but there was some kind of incredible accident the local police car was getting being gassed up in that moment so you send in an unmarked car which means these sort of special squads which every police force has an are the local sort of there's a very close it's they're all they're like local CIA's they have their own special operations their own special intelligence and it was those people who went in so they weren't observed quite a lot of questioning about the and it turns out we learned from the from the urban committee that these people actually went in after hours that the this unmarked car was supposed to have gone off at midnight but for some reason is what was the testimony that there'd been a lot of break-ins around there recently and they'd found that they scored better on these break-ins sometimes if they put in overtime so that night they they happen to put in some overtime and they they happen to to turn up is it's I don't know that week we I'd I personally would feel better

00:38:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2282s)

we I'd I personally would feel better waiting for a bit more of the evidence to come in but that that there's more to this whole thing than meets the eye I think almost any any observer would concede at this point wouldn't they I mean it isn't just a case of somebody trying to get into a room and then and and getting caught at it I mean that I think that's been more or less sort of understood from the very beginning that there is a major factional fight and action out of the small sense I mean a probably very broad interests are ultimately involved in this thing but the kind of factional struggle that's going on and it is still going on now the other hand I think people should be aware of the fact that at some point the issue may be resolved that's to say that that clearly the country can't stand still and that that at some point the losers will be the real losers and I think there are real losers in this I think they're fighting back desperately I think the old FBI is a loser fighting back desperately I think the old some of the old CIA types are losers lots of losers and no one's clearly I think the winners are but at some point as an old factional struggles the lines will become clearer you know who the losers and who the winners are I think that's what people kind of should sort of watch for because at that point I would suspect that Watergate might suddenly and terminate very rapidly or if I could make another analogy I think this is the biggest investigation that's been going on in Washington since the Bobby Baker investigation and the tf-x general dynamics investigation in 1963 both of which were coming to a head well disappear next pretty much when Kennedy was assassinated they had a meeting on November 20th 1963 and the newspapers reported that Fred Korth would be the next witness when the committee reconvened the next week which would have been November 27th 1963 I didn't

00:40:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2402s)

have been November 27th 1963 I didn't check my dates on this but I think in fact the next tf-x committee hearing was in 1967 or something like that when they had really and course needless to say never it was called as a witness at all except that was those were business scandals and this is much more like a constitutional crisis but I think the Bobby Baker hearing if it had continued in the direction it was starting to go in would have reached not in only into government but into the the same areas of government and maybe even some of the same personnel one of the things that we haven't yet heard from the Ervin committee which was very prominent in the initial investigations was the role of the people who paid for all this sort of thing the role of the banks the role of they that they where did all those $100 bills come from initially and thank God for the General Accounting Office which came in with a very good report which traced these funds through Bernhard Barker's bank account which incidentally was in a bank which is some of the original directors of which are some of the top political manipulators in the country back to another Bank you can trace interlocks through all of this thing and that that's where I hope that the Ervin committee will end up with they've started at the very bottom you know with the people who were in the in that DNC room that particular night I hope they will go the same route that the GAO did and travel back through the people who collected the funds to the top money man apparently Maurice Stan's for example to all their got there they're supposed to that's on their list and finally think about the role of the these people who have paid the money to people like Stan's because I think they are a discernible element in American politics and are well worthy of study and that's why I was so sorry about the Patinkin I think have a you know the House Committee on banking and currency they

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2520s)

Committee on banking and currency they have a very good record in this they had already investigated the bank they had put in connection with the collapse of the Penn Central they had put out a report which actually named the bank as one of the banks which was associated with this purchase of a cashier's check down in Florida which ended up in Burnett Barker's bank account the Patman committee remember failed to vote to go ahead with a full investigation in part at that time because the Watergate case had not yet come to trial and they said it would prejudice the chances of the defendants now there's the the field is being preempted by the Ervin committee and I have no reason to doubt yet that the Previn committee will do a good job and I think as everyone who's listening to this broadcast is interested in things should should just keep track and make sure that they cover all of the kind of shady areas which had come out in the initial investigation six months ago because certainly not enough to just diddle around with the conflicting

testimonies of McCord and old I think Fran said it very well before we began to tape this program he said that at this point we are dealing with a jigsaw puzzle that has a hundred pieces we've only been given three pieces so far and none of our three pieces fit together so let me end by asking you if basically how serious you believe the governmental crisis actually is do you think that we will continue to get pieces of this puzzle and come back together over the airwaves of KPFA and continue to put it together or do you think that something very serious and very critical could happen that would divert us from putting together this puzzle well let me say a few things here I think that there I mean in the history of the recent history of this country crisis periods have been one where everything is closed up like decisions to go into Vietnam and decisions are

00:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2642s)

to go into Vietnam and decisions are going to Korea and so on that things happen very rapidly but also under closed doors now this this is one time when a crisis has opened the doors for a very brief period into the labyrinth of government the normal tendencies for those doors are closed again and those doors will close in my estimation once the some issue has been decided but the struggle is so intense now I think there's a real conflict the real powerful conflict that then we can gain insights it's like during a surgical operation for a while you can see how the innards operate but then sewn up again and then it's harder to do that unless you open it up again and you know cut open people you know every 24 hours so my feeling would be that one should you know as that to utilize these moments when truth comes out you know as much as possible and you know learn what one can I mean the idea that somehow the truth will be presented before the people or the truth will come out and I think it's not never happens anywhere and under any circumstances truth only only comes out at crisis periods as it is coming out in this fashion so that in a way the record of what's already coming out is very rich I think a lot of the testimony has little phrases and innuendos that that are useful and must be used because that's all we're gonna get we're not going to get much more and we got the Pentagon Papers then Peter and I both have done some work on it and the you know that it's certainly not something you read as you know the spoken word of God the Father Almighty and what what everything is about so I thought that would be my feeling that that um this is the case the other thing of course is that the question that I've heard people say as well what should the position of the Left be at me so it people who are you know in opposition and so on well I don't see that there's any possible position that one can take because the wolves are fighting amongst each other or let's say one tribe of wolves and where the other tribe and anyway they're fighting

00:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2760s)

tribe and anyway they're fighting amongst each other it's it's a it's a drama in which the the contradictions within the ruling elements have reached explosive and bloody proportions IIIi think I don't think the struggle is over by far but in a way it's a struggle that will affect all this but yet that neither the left nor even the Liberals in the center I mean the old-fashioned Center they have a very great part and somehow happening within the the the ruling interests and they're their representatives and in in the structures of power I'd like to answer your question by a distinction again between the two two kinds of crisis I think the the surface crisis of Watergate might be turned off as dramatically as it was turned on that could happen the underlying economic crisis which I would call a crisis of retrenchment what happens to a country and the economy is being expanded which has been expanding since it began practically for centuries it's now suddenly has two stable itself to stabilize itself and particularly in the overseas area actually to undergo a certain kind of retrenchment of operations that is a very real crisis one which I don't think we've yet really begun to face one which for the the marginal groups I was talking about the the the quick buck operators the people who are trying to get a rich contract out of the Defense Department budget this year even if it contributes to the bankruptcy of the whole country five years from now those people far from being damped down by anything happened up to the present I think they're more active and more dangerous than ever the kind of operation which is symbolized by iOS and first burnett Kornfeld and then later vesko that's that kind of quick buck operation

represents i think a very dangerous for us so all the people who grown fat on the defense budget and don't know what to do when the defense budget is cut back I think that's a very real crisis and will continue regardless

00:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfB9Ng3gPro&t=2881s)

real crisis and will continue regardless of what happens to Watergate well our time is just about up I'd like to thank Peter for being with us and Fran also and Franz as well and this is Marty Yellin from the bay area Institute this program was distributed by the Pacifica program service in Berkeley all rights are reserved

---

END